

Messiah and the Holy Spirit

Seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Isaiah foretold that Messiah would be a man of the Spirit.

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*
(Isaiah 11:2, NIV)

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him.”*
(Isaiah 42:1, NIV)

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.”*
(Isaiah 61:1, NIV)

Not only would Messiah be fully equipped with the Spirit, but He would pour out that Spirit on all God's people. Hear the testimony of John the Baptist at Jesus' baptism:

“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”
(John 1:32-34, NIV)

Throughout the events of Jesus' birth, before Jesus even appears, the Spirit is already doing His work. First, hear Luke 1:13-15 (NIV):

*The angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John...He will be filled with the **Holy Spirit** even from birth.”*

Hear also Luke 1:30-35 (NIV):

*The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus...” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

Listen to what happens when Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth:

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear."
(Luke 1:41-42, NIV)*

The Spirit spoke through Zechariah at the circumcision of John the Baptist:

*[John's] father Zechariah was filled with the **Holy Spirit** and prophesied:
"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his people."
(Luke 1:67-68, NIV)*

When Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple, the Spirit testified to Him through Simeon:

*There was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the **Holy Spirit** was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit** that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the **Spirit**, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation."
(Luke 2:25-30, NIV)*

Later, when Jesus' earthly ministry was drawing to a close, He would tell His disciples:

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." (John 15:26; 16:14, NIV)

We see the Spirit already filling that role during Jesus' birth. He testifies to Jesus through Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, and even through John the Baptist when he is still in his mother's womb.

In both Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek, the word translated as "spirit" also means "wind" and "breath". The Spirit is the Wind of God, the Breath of God. He is God's life and power in motion. As such, He is the one who plants God's divine life in the womb of the virgin Mary.

Jesus Christ came in the power of the Spirit, lived in the power of the Spirit, and rose in the power of the Spirit. When He returned to His Father, He poured out that same Spirit on all believers. This Spirit is Messiah's gift to all who trust Him. The Spirit of Christ is your eternal birthright as a child of God. Live in Him. Speak in Him. Minister in Him. Love in Him.

*Father,
today,
in every situation,
I want the Spirit of Jesus to shape the way
I think, speak, and react.*

Listen & Sing:
[The Mind of Christ](#)
or
[In the Father, Son, and Spirit](#)

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